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FLOWERS FOR THE BRAVE.

Decorating the Graves of the Soldier Dead.

Imposing Memorial Services, at the M. E. Church, Oregon Cemetery, This Day More Universally Observed at Oregon Than Ever Before.

It was a perfect summer day which dawned Monday morn. The skies were cloudless and the air balmy and refreshing.

It was a day suggestive of peace and rest, fitted for the observance of Memorial Day—the paying of the annual tribute to the nation's dead—strewn beautiful flowers on the tombs of soldiers and honored with eulogy the memory of those who had served their country well in darkest hours.

The old Jewish nation was bound together in the bonds of brotherhood by celebration of feast or commemoration of events in connection with their national history and so this Memorial Day has come to be one of the cherished days of the year. It is dear to the heart of a veteran because he lives over again the exciting scenes; soldier life receives a fresh coloring of crimson and blue, thus making the figures and scenes that live in his memory with increasing brightness stand out in more bold and prominent relief.

Every year the pictures become more and more vivid; the coloring more natural and life like; the memories more dear; the consecration to our country more complete and unselfish.

It is dear to the fathers and mothers who offered their dear boys on the altar of their country and dearer yet to the orphans and widows, who during these long years have mourned a loved husband and father gone.

By properly celebrating this sacred day the new generation that knows of war days only as an historical event, may be taught lessons of patriotism that will keep before them a loyal zeal that will make it impossible for treason to flourish within our borders.

For the sake of the young, let everyone do his duty in perpetuating the sweetly sad and solemn rites of Memorial Day hereafter as they were celebrated in our lovely little city this year.

In pursuance to the arrangements made, the members of Meyer Post were out early and assembled at their hall before 9 A. M. At 10:30 the comrades and ex-soldiers met members of the order, were formed in line and proceeded to the place designated, where the floral offerings were placed in each company's hands by the wives, mothers, daughters and sisters; the command was then turned over to Commander Gossin and the column moved with silent tread to the music of the muffled drum to the cemetery. On reaching the silent city of the dead, the post formed a hollow square around the cenotaph. The officers took their positions within the square. After the order "Parade Post" a prayer was offered by the chaplain, music by the choir and the commander read: "This day is a sacred with the almost visible presence of those who out of prison pens and hospitals, from cemetery and battlefield have joined the company of those who mustered to duty upon the parade ground of heaven."

CONRATES SALUTE THE DEAD. and the guards under command of officer of the guard, were sent forth volleys from the musketry, the officer of the day, Frank deposed the floral cross, the rose and the ivy upon the unknown grave.

Mr. H. T. Aikine then read the following original poem:

Make kneeling the body on the wall; The market's school its youth; The bloody sword is laid away— The uniform blue and grey, The sword of war is laid away, Throughout both North and South.

The higher moral sense of man has bid the battle cease; The sword that once destroyed men, The hands that once were stretched out in friendship, are now joined in peace, And all the world is at peace.

But who's forgotten yet the grief? Ah! not the soldier's wife; Who's lived her life on naught but meat; Who's met the carnage's deadly pain; Who's seen her husband's head bent to meet in Uncle Sam's employ.

Ah! no; he dreams of service hard, Of empty haversack, Of weary march and carriage box, Of yellow fever, and small pox, Of camp life, and of prison locks— Of blood stains on his track.

Ah! yes; he also dreams of fear; He sees the light begin; He hears the yell of the foe; He feels the charge—the foaming stroke— He knows the sword is laid away— Another time laid by.

And thus they have both to and fro; They charge and counter charge; They hear the yell of the foe; They feel the charge—the foaming stroke— They know the sword is laid away— Another time laid by.

He dreams the fearful battle's charge Where fighting's hand to hand; Where shouts are heard by clashing and wire, And all our graves are laid; Which he could not withstand.

They fight like demons on both sides, They battle like men for clay; They hear the yell of the foe; They feel the charge—the foaming stroke— They know the sword is laid away— Another time laid by.

At last the battle gives way; His bugle sounds retreat; He hears the yell of the foe; He feels the charge—the foaming stroke— He knows the sword is laid away— Another time laid by.

He sees the light begin; He hears the yell of the foe; He feels the charge—the foaming stroke— He knows the sword is laid away— Another time laid by.

He dreams the fearful battle's charge Where fighting's hand to hand;